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FLOOR DEBATE

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But it will be interesting to see how the debate comes out, for example, on this particular issue. I don't know if there will be 25 votes on Senator Bruning's amendment. There may only be 22 or 21. And then those of you who are against this amendment, when you go to vote on the committee amendment, you're going to be faced here with five other issues and do the five outbalance the one and, you know, should that be part of the decision on voting on a block of bills at once? Or is it clear and better to vote on them individually, as you would do in a consent calendar situation, for example? I can't say with certainty forever in the past that this hasn't happened, but I don't think Senator Wickersham, for example, has ever presented on the floor of the Legislature three bills that are presented to you as part of this package this morning that have never been formally acted upon in his committee. Again, although technically there's nothing that prohibited...prohibited...prohibits it in the rules, it has not been the practice of committees generally, to my knowledge, of combining bills into a committee bill that have not been acted upon by the committee. And the importance of having it acted upon by the committee goes to the very question of Senator Wickersham's main point, and that is do we have as much information? Do we understand what's going on? Are we likely to understand what's going on when things come up? If they haven't been acted upon in committee, there's no committee statement filed with our materials, and maybe I'm the only one that looks at them but I don't think so. I think an awful lot of you look at the Committee statement to get an idea of who's for and against the bill and what the votes are in committee and...and a flavor for the discussion and an outline of what's in the bill, as concisely delineated to you, hopefully, by committee counsel. I think those Committee statements are important to the process and we are now engaged in the possible process of shortening...of shortchanging that experience too, providing us with less information and making it less likely that we will act intelligently upon those particular measures. So I'm sure that's about all the process you can...you can stand for today, but I hope you'll, again, I hope you'll take the process thing seriously. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Redfield.